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MILITARY INFORMATION ON BULGARIA FROM WESTERN SOURCES

RECALL 3 CLASSES; TIGHTEN PARTY CONTROL -- Recall, Bulgaria Libre e Independente, 2 Jan 53

By order of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and the Council of Ministers, confirmed by the Bulgarian Chief of Staff, the classes of 1927, 1928, and 1930 were recalled temporarily for military duty starting 1 November 1952. The first to be recalled were students, workers, and intellectuals who for various reasons had not been on military duty.

Those recalled who are of anti-Communist convictions, and whom the Communist militia knows to be former members of the Agrarian Party and adherents of the "fading" opposition, are sent to the Labor Service for punishment. There, in addition to performing actual military service, they must study the Russian language and party doctrine.

The Central Committee of Trade Unions in Bulgaria has dispatched a special "confidential" order to the directors of economic and industrial enterprises and to the responsible party members in factories and enterprises directing them to employ a maximum number of laborers so that by the end of 1952 the economic plan can be fulfilled. The order also stated that any act of irresponsibility or sabotage by workers or directors must be reported immediately to the party secretary and the offenders severely punished.

Special control organs of the Ministry of Defense have been established in or near factories that produce textiles, footwear, rubber products, and cement, as well as near uranium mines and other ore and coal mines in Dimitrovo, Maritsa, Pirin, etc. These control organs are composed of intelligence officers from the Ministry of Defense who determine whether the entire production is to be shipped to the USSR.

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The airfields at Yambol, Telish, Stara Zagora, Plovdiv, Gorna Oryakhovitsa, etc., have been transformed into military air bases for the latest Soviet MIG-15 aircraft flown by Soviet pilots. No Bulgarian official, even a fanatic Communist, can approach these bases without a special permit from the Soviet military commander.

The military factories at Kazanluk and Sopot [now Vazovgrad], the airplane factories at Bozhurishte and Lovech, and the construction projects near the air-force camps at Telish, Yambol, and Plovdiv are directed by Soviet military specialists, and the workers work exclusively according to military plans.

Railroad, Black Sea, and Danube River transportation has been directed by the so-called Soviet specialists for a long time. It should be noted that recently train delays, locomotive breakdowns, and sabotage of transportation facilities have increased to such an extent that a transportation militia has been created by the Central Committee of the party. This militia is headed by Dimo Dichev, a member of the Central Committee.

The discontent which exists in the Bulgarian Army is well known. The political commissars have every liberty and right to punish harshly "the soldiers responsible for antinational activities." A spectacle is made of such soldiers by shooting them in the barracks in the presence of the entire corps. Only a month ago, in the barracks of the 13th Infantry Regiment at Kyustendil, three soldiers were shot because they had "attempted to escape abroad" and join the Bulgarian National Committee. -- Colonel Karadakov

POOR FIREPOWER OF SOVIET WEAPONS -- Brussels, Service de Presse, 10 May 53

According to the Nation Roumaine, the Bulgarian Army is equipped exclusively with old Soviet weapons with a much poorer firepower than the weapons used by the army of the Atlantic Treaty nations.

Soldiers' pay is very low, and troops receive only 800 grams of bread per day. Officers and noncommissioned officers eat in separate mess halls from their troops. Troops are given 2 hours of political instruction per week by the Politruk (politicheski rukovoditel, political leader). One hour is devoted to lectures by the Politruk and the other to individual questions on the lecture material.

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